



N^o 8. Friday, December 30.

TO CALEB D'ANVERS, Esq.

NEC invidemus altius stantibus. Quæ excelsa videbantur prærupta sunt. Illi rursus, quos Sors iniqua in Ancipiti posuit, tutiores erunt superbiam detrahendo rebus per se superbis Et fortunam suam, quam maxime poterunt, in planum deferendo. Multi quidem sunt, quibus necessario hærendum sit in fastigio suo; ex quo non possunt nisi cadendo descendere. Sed hoc ipsum testentur, maximum onus suum esse, quod aliis graves esse cogantur; nec sublevatos se, sed suffixos. Justitia, mansuetudine, humana lege, Et benigna manu, præterent multa ad sequiores casus præsidia, quorum spe securius pendeant. Nihil tamen æque hoc, ab his animi fluctibus, vindicaverit, quam semper aliquem incrementis terminum figere; nec fortunæ arbitrium desinendi dare, sed seipsos, multo quidem citra extrema, hortentur consistere.

Sen. de Tran. Animi.

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THIS Passage deserves a Place at the Head of one of your Papers; since there is hardly any Thing to be found among the Antients or the Moderns more proper to be recommended to the serious Consideration of all State Craftsmen; and since, of all Craftsmen, These appear to me to stand most in need of your friendly Assistance. Men are generally apply'd to other Business, according to their Talents; and if they do not excel in their Professions, they do not thrive in them. But the Case is very often not the same amongst Those, who govern



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govern the great Affairs of the World. *Secretaries* often want to be taught to *write*; *Presidents* to *speak*; and *Ministers*, intrusted with the Management of the Publick Revenue, to forbear *plundering* and *stock-Jobbing*.

Our *present Ministers* indeed are happily chosen; and the wonderful *Success* of their *Administration* is a sufficient Proof of their *Ability*. But, Mr. *D'Anvers*, your Cares are not confined to the present Age. You look forward to Posterity, and are solicitous even for the Good of future Generations. Your candid Readers will, no doubt, apply what falls from your Pen in a right Manner, and will do you the Justice to believe, that whenever you chastise the Vices, or expose the Follies of *Ministers* in general, you intend a Lesson to Ministers, yet unborn. No one can suppose, that you design to asperse the *untainted Characters*, or to inform the *consummate Wisdom* of Those, who govern us at this Time; for whose Service it is evident to the most common Understandings that your Papers are intended.

I have aim'd, it must be confess'd, at the Rank of an *Author*; but finding myself unable to sustain so great a Character, I have, wisely enough, reduced my Ambition into more narrow Bounds, and profess myself an humble *Hunter*. Happy would it be for Mankind, Mr. *D'Anvers*, if every Body copied, at least in this Instance, after my Example; or if Those, who have the Power of doing it, proportion'd the Parts they assign to the Talents they discover. What a shifting of Parts; what a Change in the Scene would immediately follow? How low would some Men fall? How high would others rise? *Robin* would decline sitting in your *Coach Box*; or you would force him to get up behind. Let my Modesty, Sir, bespeak your Favour to me; and be assured that I will attend and serve you, in the Duty of my Profession, with Industry and Fidelity, if you make such an Use of my first Endeavour.

Endeavours, as I have Reason to expect, from that flow of Style; from that good Sense; and from that true Spirit, which appear in Your Papers.

I fancy you will observe that Those, who are in the *first Class*, mention'd by *Seneca*, never fail of being in the *second*; for a great *Elevation* is always expos'd to great *Danger*, and therefore to great *Anxiety*. You will shew, perhaps, how little such Men regard the wise Advice of the Tutor of *Nero*; or, to give our *Stoick* a more honourable Title, of the Companion and Friend of *Burrhus*; for I dare not call him the Correspondent of *St. Paul*. You will laugh, no doubt, at the Parade they make of That, which they ought to conceal; at the silly Pains they take, in exerting their Power, or spending their Riches, to encrease the Indignation, which Mankind justly conceive at the *Manner*, by which they acquired both *one* and the *other*.

To illustrate these Truths, I would have you, for some Reasons, descend no lower than Cardinal *Wolsey*. This *saucy Minister*, who, by the way, could never get rid of the scoundrel Habits of a *low Education*, had some *Knowledge*, more *Wit*, and much more *Impudence*. The Fortune he made was equally exorbitant and rapid. The Use he made of this Fortune was extravagant and ostentatious to the highest Degree. He seem'd industrious to erect Trophies of his *Folly*, and to furnish Proofs of his *Rapine* wherever he went. He adorn'd *Villas*. He built *Palaces*; and his Train out-shone his *Master's* so much, that when he retir'd into the Country, on a Party of Pleasure, the Court became desert. Even *foreign Ministers* attended on him, and sound their Account in it; for he had ever some Interest separate from that of his Country. He was zealous for the *Emperor*; zealous for *France*; and zealous for the Court of *Rome*, in their Turns; and, notwithstanding his Parts, he was the *Bubble* of them all.

This

This little Sketch of Cardinal *Wolsey's* Fortune describes a Man placed in that elevated State, which is the *last* of the three mention'd by *Seneca*; and from whence no Man can, *descend* without *falling*. These Falls might be soften'd indeed; and the Means of doing it are finely touched in the *Latin* Author. They will, I doubt not, be as delicately and as strongly expressed in your *English*. But the giddy *Creatures* do the very reverse. Instead of stopping, when their Heads begin to turn, they try to clamber still higher; and every Step they take for *Security*, enhances their Guilt, and precipitates their Ruin. Unworthy of Love or Esteem, they have recourse to the two sole Expedients, which remain, *Fear* and *Corruption*. By *one* they exasperate Mankind; and whilst they render their Enemies more *cautious*, they render them more *dangerous*. By the *other* they assemble a Number of *false Friends*, who encumber their *Prosperity*, and afford them no Support in the *great and terrible Day of Adversity*. I begin to warm myself, and am in danger of swelling this Letter up to the Size of a two-penny Half-Sheet; which being absolutely forbidden, by one of the fundamental Rules of our Profession, I take my Leave of you till next Week, and am, dear Mr. D'Anvers,

C

Your faithful, humble Servant,

Dec. 26.

1726.

JACK HINTER.

I AM very much obliged to the Writer of this excellent Letter, whose *Hints* only are of more Importance than the laborious unmeaning Discourses of several Authors, or the tedious Harangues of some frothy Orators. I hope the Publick will excuse my printing those undeserved Compliments on myself, which nothing should have prevailed on me to do, (as common a Practice as it is amongst all my *Brother-Authors*,) but my Unwillingness to suppress any Thing,